

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE
MIDDLE SIUSLAW-ESMOND CREEK AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN**

**DECISION RECORD DOCUMENTATION AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Environmental Assessment No. OR-090-00-14

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Coast Range Resource Area, Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management, has completed an Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for aquatic habitat restoration projects in the Siuslaw River Basin, western Lane County, Oregon.

The design features of the Proposed Action and Alternatives are described in the Environmental Assessment OR-090-00-14. Project work would improve the quality of aquatic and riparian habitat in the Siuslaw River and tributaries. The Proposed Action is fully consistent with the objectives and restoration recommendations in the Eugene District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the Northwest Forest Plan.

Based on extensive experience with similar work in the Siuslaw River Basin, in other Oregon coast streams, and evaluation of similar project work, no significant adverse impacts are expected to: Flood plains or wetland/riparian areas, wilderness values, cultural resources, prime or unique farmland, wild and scenic rivers, air quality, Native American religious concerns, low income or minority populations, water quality or noxious weeds.

On the basis of information contained in the EA, and all other information available, it has been determined that the Alternatives analyzed will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the Eugene District Resource Management Plan and Record Of Decision, and do not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement or supplement to the existing Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared for this proposal.

DECISION

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR-090-00-14 and the Finding of No Significant Impact it is my decision to select the Proposed Action. Implementation of this action will result in improvement of aquatic habitat in the Siuslaw River and Esmond Creek basins through culvert and road rehabilitation, riparian vegetation restoration and placement of habitat structure in the Siuslaw River and tributaries. Implementation is to occur in a five to ten year period beginning in

2000. While proposed project sites and actions are listed in the EA, additional site-specific NEPA documents would be prepared for individual projects as needed.

DECISION RATIONAL

The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the purpose of the action as described in the EA. The Proposed Action provides for the most improvement in aquatic habitat for resident and anadromous aquatic species. Both the No Action Alternative and Alternative 2 provide for an improvement in aquatic habitat but to a lesser extent and over a longer period of time. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the Record of Decision for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Northern Spotted Owl, 1994, and with the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, 1995.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation was completed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, with the determination this action would not jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed terrestrial species known to occur in the vicinity (Biological Opinion, February 11, 2000). As a result of the decision to list Coastal Coho salmon as “threatened” under the ESA by the National Marine Fisheries Service (August 10, 1998) consultation is required to conduct stream restoration efforts that are Likely to Adversely Affect. Enhancement work proposed in this EA is covered under the Programmatic Biological Assessment for the Oregon Coast Province (Jul 23, 1999) and Biological Opinion (July 28, 1999) Prior to beginning on-ground project work all required permits will be obtained and all required sensitive species clearances will be completed. In the event a sensitive species is present, the individual proposed project action may be modified or excluded as required.

No cultural resources have been identified in the actual project action locations.

The Project Plan and EA have been submitted to the Oregon Department of State Lands and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for modification of an existing excavation and fill permit for those actions in the plan which exceed fifty cubic yards. No actions requiring an excavation and fill permit will be implemented prior to issuance of the permits for actions where such a permit is required.

The Proposed Action includes projects situated on non-Federal lands. Coordination has continued with the land owners and appropriate County and State agencies. Under the Wyden Amendment, BLM has the authority to participate in project activities on non-Federal lands with the written approval of the land owner. Implementation of Proposed Actions on non-Federal lands will be done only after receiving written approval and in accordance with legal requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Both the EA and preliminary FONSI were advertised on (May 26, 2000) in the Eugene Register-

Guard as being available for a 15-day public review period. Copies of the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on our mailing list. No comments were received.

Signed by Diane Chung, Coast Range Field Manager on June 19, 2000.